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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009*

Part VI
Human rights and humanitarian affairs

Section 24
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

(Programme 20 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009)**

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will subsequently be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/62/6/Add.1).

** *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

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Overview

24.1 The overall objective of the programme is to provide international protection to refugees and others of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems, as well as to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to them. Assistance plays a key role in facilitating international protection and the search for and realization of solutions. It is rooted in and grows out of the protective nature of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In its operational activities, UNHCR seeks to integrate protection, the search for durable solutions and humanitarian assistance. The pursuit of durable solutions to the problems of refugees is at the heart of protection and is the principal purpose of the programme. The framework for the provision of international protection was further spelled out in the Agenda for Protection, endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/57/12/Add.1, annex IV) and welcomed by the General Assembly in 2002 (resolution 57/187).

24.2 The mandate for the programme is contained in General Assembly resolution 319 A (IV), by which the Assembly established UNHCR as from 1 January 1951, and resolution 428 (V), which sets out the Statute of the Office. The Assembly has also called upon the High Commissioner to ensure that returnees receive assistance to help in their sustainable reintegration, as well as to monitor their safety and well-being on return (see resolution 40/118). In addition, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations, and with the consent of the State concerned, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons (see resolution 48/116), working in cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator (see resolution 58/153). In its work for internally displaced persons, and as part of the collaborative response of the United Nations system to internal displacement, UNHCR has been given special responsibility for the following three areas: protection, emergency shelter and camp management and coordination. As regards the assistance activities of UNHCR, the basic provisions of the Statute were expanded by the Assembly in its resolution 832 (IX). Through the adoption by the Assembly of its resolution 58/153 on implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate, the Office was given a renewed mandate to address the challenge of forced displacement through a mission based on a spirit of solidarity, responsibility and burden-sharing, with an abiding commitment to make the Office a truly multilateral institution. UNHCR has also been mandated to address the situation of stateless persons in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961).

24.3 The international legal basis for the protection of refugees finds its principal expression in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto. In addition, there are a number of other international instruments of relevance, such as the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the regional level, there are also important instruments and declarations, such as the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union), the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, adopted by the Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama, and the San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons. Similarly, the international legal basis for addressing the situation of stateless persons is the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.

24.4 UNHCR is responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy that will be followed consists of a range of activities undertaken in cooperation with States and various organizations and pursued with a continued strong emphasis on improving efficiency, transparency and accountability, especially through the institutionalization of results-based management. Notable among those activities are the following:

(a) The pursuit of comprehensive strategies, in cooperation with States and organizations, aimed at mitigating and preventing the causes of forced population movements as well as finding solutions to them when they occur;

(b) The ongoing development of a legal regime of international protection, in particular through the promotion of accessions to international and regional instruments relating to the status of refugees or otherwise benefiting refugees, the effective implementation of refugee rights and the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles;

(c) Ensuring that UNHCR fully participates in and supports the strengthened collaborative response of the United Nations to situations of internal displacement through its leadership and coordination of the areas for which the Office has been given special responsibility: protection, emergency shelter and camp management and coordination;

(d) The further development of contingency planning, emergency preparedness and response capabilities, in coordination with other organizations, so as to respond effectively and efficiently to situations of forced human displacement;

(e) Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners provide protection and humanitarian assistance in a manner that is sensitive to environmental considerations and in such a way that it is supportive of and reinforces development initiatives to the extent possible;

(f) Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners incorporate into all aspects of the delivery of humanitarian assistance the particular needs and capacities, ascertained through participatory assessments, of refugee women and elderly refugees and the special needs of refugee children and adolescents;

(g) The further development, in consultation with concerned parties, of options to ensure the security and the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements as well as security in areas of return and to explore further concrete ways of enhancing the safety and security of UNHCR staff and other humanitarian workers working with refugees and returnees. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials, in the conduct of their duties, to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization;

(h) The systematic follow-up to relevant recommendations in the plans of action emanating from recent international conferences, especially the plan of action related to the Millennium Development Goals;

(i) The involvement, as soon as possible, of other humanitarian and development organizations, both national and international, in providing assistance to refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities and in the search for durable solutions.

24.5 The programme is under the intergovernmental guidance of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in accordance with its terms of reference, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII). At its fifty-sixth session, in 2005, the Executive Committee, while considering the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2004 (A/60/5/Add.5), reviewed a recommendation related to the annual programme budget of UNHCR and the corresponding United Nations strategic framework and biennial budget to improve the congruence between the strategic framework/biennial programme plan and the annual programme budget (A/AC.96/1010, para. 224). In a related decision, the Executive Committee took note of the audit report, the proposed follow-up of UNHCR to the audit recommendations and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/AC.96/1011/Add.1).

Accordingly, the subprogramme structure of the programme for the period 2008-2009 was reorganized, and the two subprogrammes that were approved in the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 were consolidated into a single programme entitled "International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees", as reflected in the biennial programme plan. The alignment of the programme structure with the structure of the UNHCR operational programme reflects the fact that in its operational activities, UNHCR is seeking to more fully integrate protection, the search for durable solutions and humanitarian assistance.

24.6 Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, the Economic and Social Council established the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, effective 1 January 1959, in its resolution 672 (XXV). Reaffirming the terms of reference set out by the Assembly, the Council decided that the Executive Committee should: (a) determine the general policies under which the High Commissioner should plan, develop and administer the programmes and projects required to help solve the problems referred to in the Assembly resolution; (b) review at least annually the use of funds made available to the High Commissioner and the programmes and projects being proposed or carried out by the Office; and (c) have authority to make changes in and give final approval for the use of funds and the programmes and projects referred to above. In subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner have called upon the Office, in the context of its basic mandate, to assist other groups of persons regarded as falling within the competence of the High Commissioner.

24.7 Although established by the Economic and Social Council, which elects its members, the Executive Committee functions as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and is the key governance body of UNHCR. It advises the High Commissioner in the exercise of his or her functions and approves the use of extrabudgetary funds made available to the High Commissioner. The annual cycle of meetings of the Executive Committee consists of one annual plenary session and a number of intersessional meetings of the Standing Committee. Reports on the Executive Committee's sessions are submitted to the Assembly as addenda to the reports of the High Commissioner. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 61/136, the membership of the Executive Committee will be increased from 70 to 72 States.

24.8 The Office of the High Commissioner is responsible for implementing the programme of work under this section. The High Commissioner, who is elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General, provides overall direction, supervision and management of the activities under this programme. The functions of the High Commissioner are set out in the annex to the Statute of UNHCR. The High Commissioner is assisted by a Deputy High Commissioner and two Assistant High Commissioners, for Protection and Operations respectively.

24.9 The UNHCR New York Office represents the interests of UNHCR and promotes its objectives at Headquarters and with all New York-based United Nations entities, funds, programmes, specialized agencies, diplomatic missions, the press corps accredited to the United Nations and key non-governmental organizations and policy foundations that are accredited to the United Nations or focused on the Organization's political issues. The New York Office is funded entirely from extrabudgetary resources and consists of eight staff in the Professional and higher categories and five staff in the General Service category.

24.10 The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for UNHCR in the biennium 2008-2009 are detailed, together with resources, under the programme of work.

24.11 The issue of publications has been reviewed in the context of the programme of work. It is anticipated that recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be issued, as summarized in table 24.1 and as described under "Outputs" below.

Table 24.1 **Summary of publications**

Publications	*2004-2005 actual*	*2006-2007 estimate*	*2008-2009 estimate*
Recurrent	18	22	18
Non-recurrent	20	20	20
Total	**38**	**42**	**38**

24.12 The overall resources required for the biennium 2008-2009 for this section amount to $69,531,200 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $2,500,000 (or 3.7 per cent). The increase of $2,500,000 is proposed to strengthen the regular budget component of the High Commissioner's administrative expenditures, pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 59/276. In accordance with article 20 of its Statute, administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of UNHCR are borne under the regular budget of the United Nations, and all other expenditures relating to the activities of UNHCR are financed by voluntary contributions. The contribution from the regular budget would finance the equivalent of 220 posts in the management and administrative category, and an expanded part of the related non-post requirements such as other staff costs ($200,000), general operating expenses ($5,500,000), supplies and materials ($618,200) and grants and contributions ($4,823,000).

24.13 It is estimated that for the biennium 2008-2009, $2,765,000,000 will be available in extrabudgetary resources. This represents 97.6 per cent of the total projected resources of UNHCR. Extrabudgetary resources are dedicated primarily to substantive and operational activities.

24.14 During the biennium 2008-2009, UNHCR will continue to improve its evaluation tools, the follow-up to evaluation and the use of self-evaluation. The newly established Policy Development and Evaluation Service, replacing the former Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, is reviewing the existing evaluation policy, as outlined in UNHCR Executive Committee document A/AC.96/1029. During the biennium 2008-2009, the Service will ensure that the UNHCR evaluation programme recommendations are effectively utilized for the purposes of policymaking, strategic planning and programme design. UNHCR is striving to improve the formulation, development and implementation of its evaluation activities. In this connection, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/269, resources identified for those activities are estimated at $2,100,000 funded through extrabudgetary resources.

24.15 The distribution of resources is summarized in tables 24.2 and 24.3.

Table 24.2 **Resource requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	*2004-2005 expenditure*	*2006-2007 appropriation*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2008-2009 estimate*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	66 283.5	67 031.2	2 500.0	3.7	39 531.2	1 980.1	71 511.3
Total	**66 283.5**	**67 031.2**	**2 500.0**	**3.7**	**39 531.2**	**1 980.1**	**71 511.3**

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

	2004-2005 expenditure	*2006-2007 estimate*	*2008-2009 estimate*
Total	**2 137 977.1**	**2 341 673.2**	**2 765 000.0**
Total (1) and (2)	**2 204 260.6**	**2 408 704.4**	**2 836 511.3**

Table 24.3 **Post requirements**

	Established regular budget posts		*Temporary posts*					
			Regular budget		*Extrabudgetary*		*Total*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Professional and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
ASG	1	1	—	—	2	2	3	3
D-2	—	—	—	—	17	17	17	17
D-1	—	—	—	—	72	72	72	72
P-5	—	—	—	—	165	165	165	165
P-4/3	—	—	—	—	942	942	942	942
P-2/1	—	—	—	—	281	281	281	281
Subtotal	**2**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**1 479**	**1 479**	**1 481**	**1 481**
General Service								
Principal level	—	—	—	—	57	57	57	57
Other level	—	—	—	—	3 563	3 563	3 563	3 563
Subtotal	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**3 620**	**3 620**	**3 620**	**3 620**
Other								
Local level	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Field Service	—	—	—	—	31	31	31	31
National Officer	—	—	—	—	**335**	**335**	**335**	**335**
Subtotal	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**366**	**366**	**366**	**366**
Total	**2**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**5 465**	**5 465**	**5 467**	**5 467**

Programme of work

24.16 The implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees falls under the overall responsibility of the Division of International Protection Services, the Division of Operational Services and the regional bureaux of UNHCR. The aspects of the programme dealing with humanitarian assistance, including emergency response, are under the responsibility of the Division of Operational Services and the regional bureaux.

Table 24.4 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To lead and coordinate efforts for the international protection of refugees and other persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems, while at the same time ensuring the provision of humanitarian assistance throughout the refugee cycle from the outset of an emergency until such time as the beneficiaries have been successfully reintegrated into their communities of origin.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced international cooperation in the protection of refugees and others of concern	(a) (i) Increased number of accessions to the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 146 accessions Estimate 2006-2007: 147 accessions Target 2008-2009: 148 accessions (ii) Strengthened host country capacity, upon request, to provide quality asylum *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 4 strengthening protection capacity project plans of action Estimate 2006-2007: 8 strengthening protection capacity project plans of action Target 2008-2009: 12 strengthening protection capacity project plans of action (iii) More efficient processing of refugee status determination *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 150,000 processed Estimate 2006-2007: 150,000 processed Target 2008-2009: 140,000 processed
(b) International standards of protection are more fully met for all persons of concern to UNHCR, taking into account their age, gender and personal background	(b) (i) Improved knowledge of international protection standards through participation in the protection learning programme *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 100 participants Estimate 2006-2007: 120 participants Target 2008-2009: 150 participants

(ii) Improved levels of registration of persons of concern

Performance measures

2004-2005: 40 per cent registered

Estimate 2006-2007: 60 per cent registered

Target 2008-2009: 80 per cent registered

(iii) Increased percentage of sexual and gender-based violence survivors who have received psychosocial, medical, legal or any other form of support

Performance measures

2004-2005: 91 per cent assisted

Estimate 2006-2007: 94 per cent assisted

Target 2008-2009: 97 per cent assisted

(iv) Decreased number of refugee camps reporting children (6-59 months old) suffering from global acute malnutrition

Performance measures

2004-2005: 30 refugee camps

Estimate 2006-2007: 27 refugee camps

Target 2008-2009: 25 refugee camps

(v) Increased percentage of refugees in camps having access to culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS information/education/communication materials

Performance measures

2004-2005: 70 per cent

Estimate 2006-2007: 75 per cent

Target 2008-2009: 80 per cent

(vi) Increased number of primary health-care facilities per 10,000 refugees established by UNHCR, as well as other quantifiable improvements brought about with the assistance of UNHCR to meet basic needs of refugees and others of concern to UNHCR

Performance measures[a]

2004-2005: 75 per cent

Estimate 2006-2007: 80 per cent

Target 2008-2009: 85 per cent

(c) Progress towards finding durable solutions to the many instances of forced displacement	(c) (i) Increased number of actors involved in activities aimed at promoting the self-reliance of returnees and providing support to host countries and countries of origin in order to promote durable solutions *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 100 actors Estimate 2006-2007: 120 actors Target 2008-2009: 140 actors (ii) Increased number of refugees and other persons of concern who return from situations of forced displacement in the framework of programmes of voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 1.1 million returnees Estimate 2006-2007: 1.3 million returnees Target 2008-2009: 1.5 million returnees (iii) Increased number of persons resettled to third countries *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 85,500 resettled Estimate 2006-2007: 65,000 resettled Target 2008-2009: 70,000 resettled
(d) Strengthened partnerships with other actors to better enable UNHCR to discharge its mandate to assist refugees and others of concern to UNHCR in a spirit of burden-sharing and international solidarity	(d) (i) Increased level of voluntary contributions provided by the international community *Performance measures* 2004-2005: $2.0 billion Estimate 2006-2007: $2.1 billion Target 2008-2009: $2.6 billion (ii) Number of emergency preparedness arrangements and contingency plans elaborated in response to potential refugee emergencies

	Performance measures 2004-2005: 8 contingency plans elaborated or updated Estimate 2006-2007: 8 contingency plans elaborated or updated Target 2008-2009: 8 contingency plans elaborated or updated
	(iii) Increased number of coordinated initiatives of relevant United Nations agencies aimed at addressing needs of refugees or returnees and the surrounding communities *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 9 initiatives Estimate 2006-2007: 10 initiatives Target 2008-2009: 10 initiatives
	(iv) Number of government agencies involved in the support of countries hosting/reintegrating refugees in accordance with the UNHCR strategy of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 6 government agencies Estimate 2006-2007: 8 government agencies Target 2008-2009: 8 government agencies
(e) Progress in helping host countries in the provision of assistance to refugees and others of concern to UNHCR and in strengthening their local capacity to cope with related issues	(e) Number of countries assisted by UNHCR to provide assistance to refugees and others of concern to UNHCR and to strengthen their capacity to cope with related issues *Performance measures* 2004-2005: 23 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 25 countries Target 2008-2009: 27 countries

[a] Shown in percentages since not all refugee camps are systematically reporting the required data every year, thus making comparisons over the years more difficult.

External factors

24.17 The programme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) the international community recognizes the enduring importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees as the primary refugee protection instrument which, as amended by its 1967 Protocol, sets out rights, including human rights, and minimum standards of treatment that apply to persons falling within its scope; and (b) the international community recognizes that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and effective responsibility and burden-sharing among all States. With regard to the performance measure related to the number of persons resettled to third countries, the quotas set by the receiving countries and the lead time taken to process resettlement applications are external factors that have an impact on the attainment of the indicator of achievement.

Outputs

24.18 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (extrabudgetary):

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: assistance to the General Assembly in its review of the High Commissioner's report (4); assistance to the Third Committee in its review of the High Commissioner's report (16);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report of the High Commissioner (2);

(ii) Executive Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: pledging conferences (annual) (2); preparation for and servicing of meetings of the Executive Committee (2); preparation/servicing of the June-July meeting at which protection issues are a key component of the agenda (2); preparation for and facilitation of the Executive Committee's consideration of assistance matters (8);

b. Parliamentary documentation: preparation of conference room papers on protection-related issues for each mid-year meeting of the Standing Committee (4); issues of the note on international protection (2); documents related to assistance issues, including the annual programme budget and reports on UNHCR inspection and evaluation activities (10); conference room papers related to a range of assistance issues (20);

(b) Other substantive activities (extrabudgetary):

(i) Recurrent publications: *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (8); *Refugees* (8); annual update of an information management system (digital online library and CD-ROMs) targeting field offices on operational aspects of UNHCR programmes, including operations relating to internally displaced persons (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: a range of new publications, or updates to existing guidelines, dealing with various sectors (health, environment, reintegration, community services, refugee women, children/adolescents) and activities, e.g., registration, microfinance (20);

(iii) Fact-finding missions: protection-related missions to be undertaken by the senior management of UNHCR (High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner, Assistant

High Commissioner and Director of the Division of International Protection Services) (8); fact-finding missions undertaken annually in relation to programme priority areas and the various technical sectors (8);

(iv) Press conferences (2);

(v) Technical material: update and publish a CD-ROM entitled "Refworld", which provides, for external users, UNHCR official documents, legal information and other reference information (2);

(vi) Audio-visual resources: videos (normally of 8-15 minutes' duration, in English and French) on a range of refugee-related topics (10);

(vii) Seminars: organization of one major international consultation with non-governmental organization implementing partners (some 450) annually (2); seminars for UNHCR implementing partners in relation to priority areas of refugee women, children/adolescents, the elderly and the environment (20);

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)

(i) Advisory services: assistance to governments in the establishment of refugee determination procedures and national legislation related to refugee matters (2);

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: organization of refugee law course with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy, with some 50 non-UNHCR participants from 30 countries (2); training events held worldwide for government officials and non-governmental implementing partners on refugee law, with overall participation of some 5,000 persons (2); a range of emergency-related training programmes conducted by UNHCR, of which the basic course, Workshop for Emergency Management, will be conducted in six sessions for 80 persons not affiliated with UNHCR (6);

(iii) Field projects: preparation, implementation and monitoring, in cooperation with a range of implementing partners, of annual projects directly related to international protection and involving activities related to local settlement, repatriation and resettlement (2); assistance projects, undertaken in cooperation with implementing partners, prepared, implemented and monitored annually in some 120 countries, grouped according two types of assistance, namely, emergency assistance and care and maintenance (4); projects, administered from Headquarters, aimed at providing programme expertise and financial resources to promote the mainstreaming of programme priorities (women, children/adolescents, elderly and the environment) in field operations (20).

Table 24.5 **Resource requirements**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009 (before recosting)*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*
Regular budget				
Post	1 054.2	1 054.2	2	2
Non-post	65 977.0	68 477.0	—	—
Subtotal	**67 031.2**	**69 531.2**	**2**	**2**
Extrabudgetary	2 341 673.2	2 765 000.0	5 465	5 465
Total	**2 408 704.4**	**2 834 531.2**	**5 467**	**5 467**

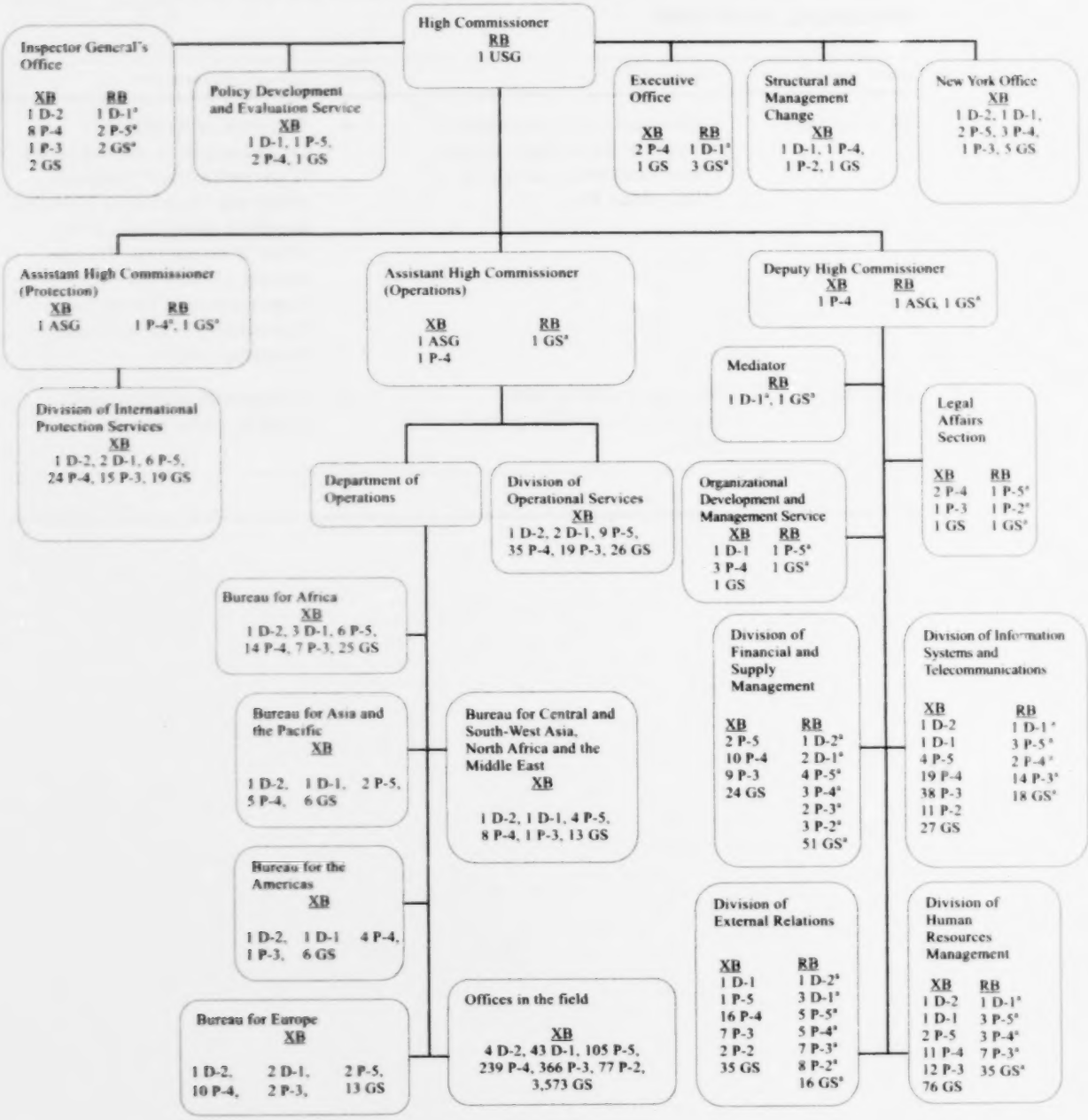
24.19 In accordance with article 20 of the UNHCR Statute, no expenditure other than administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of UNHCR shall be borne on the regular budget of the United Nations, and all other expenditures relating to the activities of the High Commissioner shall be financed by voluntary contributions. While the Statute does not define what is meant by "administrative expenditures", the term, based on a definition offered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in a report submitted to the General Assembly at its seventh session (see A/2157, part III), has been interpreted to mean expenses other than operational expenses and the related management costs.

24.20 The amount of $69,531,200 proposed for the biennium 2008-2009 relates to: (a) provisions for posts of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner ($1,054,200); and (b) a grant to be utilized for the administrative costs of UNHCR ($68,477,000). The level of the grant includes an increase in the amount of $2,500,000, proposed to strengthen the regular budget component of the High Commissioner's administrative expenditures, as called for in section III of General Assembly resolution 59/276. The provision of funds to UNHCR for the administrative expenditures of the Office of the High Commissioner in the form of a grant rather than as post and non-post resources was initiated in the biennium 2002-2003. It was designed to simplify the UNHCR budgetary process and would be subject to review after three bienniums, as indicated in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 23), para. 23.20). In this connection, the lump-sum arrangements will be reviewed in the early part of 2008, and the lessons learned from the full three bienniums, namely 2002-2003, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007, will be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Table 24.6 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of oversight bodies**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7, chap. II)	
The Advisory Committee considers the overall presentation of section 24 for 2006-2007 to be lacking in transparency, difficult to follow and not consistent with the spirit of the original approval of the lump-sum appropriation. As noted above, the use of the lump-sum grant was intended to simplify and streamline the budgetary process. In the opinion of the Committee, given that the regular budget represents only 3 per cent of the overall budget of UNHCR, this method of budgeting could be well suited to the highly operational nature of UNCHR activities, providing the necessary flexibility as well as an incentive to manage resources within the limits of an overall budget ceiling. However, in order to be effective and credible, the use of a lump-sum grant must be accompanied by full, transparent reporting on both the use and proposed use of funds. Although the Committee recognizes that providing an object-of-expenditure breakdown in the proposed programme budget would be inconsistent with the lump-sum approach previously approved by the Assembly, it is of the opinion that there is a need to provide justification for the amount being proposed; an analysis of the way the amount requested has been arrived at should be submitted in the supplementary information provided to the Committee. This would also respond to the General Assembly's request in its resolution 56/253 for more transparency. The Committee urges UNHCR to improve its presentation of its regular budget section for 2008-2009, focusing on providing additional clarity and transparency (para. VI.25).	UNHCR has provided more detailed information on the lump sum provided for the biennium 2006-2007, as well as a detailed projection of the use of those resources for the biennium 2008-2009, to the Advisory Committee.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Organizational structure for the biennium 2008-2009



Abbreviations: RB, regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary; GS, General Service; also includes Local level, Field Service and National Officer posts.

* Posts financed by the grant from the regular budget, shown under the regular budget heading in this chart for indicative purposes. They are, however, reflected in the extrabudgetary column in table 24.3 above.

Annex

Outputs produced in 2006-2007 not to be carried out in the biennium 2008-2009

A/60/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reason for discontinuation*
24.17 (a) (ii) a	Preparation of two meetings per year of the Refugee Forum, a new consultative forum on "Convention Plus"	4	The work of the High Commissioner in relation to the "Convention Plus" initiative, which was launched in 2003, has now been mainstreamed into UNHCR operations. The last meeting of the High Commissioner's Forum on "Convention Plus" was held in November 2005.
24.20 (b) (i)	Newsletter dealing with operational activities of the Office	4	Incorporated in the annual UNHCR global report
		8	